

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07732 151542Z

22

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E.O. 11652: NXA

TAGS: ECON ELTN CG

SUBJ: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR SHABA REGION

REF: KINSHASA 5211

1. REFTEL SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPT CONSIDER SETTING UP A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN EVENT SHABA REGION OF ZAIRE IS DEPRIVED OF ITS OUTSIDE TRANSIT LINKS, CUTTING OFF SIMULTANEOUSLY THE SUSTENANCE AND OUTLET FOR ZAIRE'S VITAL COPPER INDUSTRY.

2. CONSIDERING NOW THAT THE PRESENT LINK THROUGH RHODESIA IS BECOMING LESS TENABLE WHILE THE OPENING OF THE BENGUELA RAILWAY APPEARS INDEFINITELY DELAYED, THE NEED FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR ALTERNATE SUPPLY ROUTES APPEARS EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL.

3. A PARALYSIS OF THE HABA AREA WILL QUICKLY TRANSLATE INTO AN ECONOMIC CUM POLITICAL CRISIS FOR ZAIRE, HENCE, THE EMB'S CONCERN RE THE PROGRESS OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON THIS MATTER.
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Message Attributes

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